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England. — Churches, etc. —

Baptists — London Assoc.

RULES AND ORDERS

OF THE

PARTICULAR BAPTIST FUND

IN

L O N D O N.

RULES AND ORDERS

OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM



C O P Y
O F A
P A P E R O F P R O P O S A L S
F O R
R A I S I N G A F U N D;

*Which was sent to the several Congregations of
the PARTICULAR BAPTISTS, in and about
London, in the Year 1717.*

WHEREAS several Ministers and other persons, who have the interest and welfare of the Baptist Churches in England very much at heart, have observed for some time, with great grief and trouble, the little correspondence and union that there is between those of that Denomination; the great decay of that interest in some parts of England, and the difficulty they have to keep up the publick worship of God, with any tolerable reputation, in other parts; the great want of able and well qualified persons to defend the truth, and to supply those Churches that are in want of Ministers; the poverty and distress

which some employed in that sacred office are exposed to, for want of a competent maintenance for themselves and families; and the frequent applications that are made to some private persons on those occasions who neither have ability to help all, nor opportunity to enquire into the truth and circumstances of every particular case :

It was therefore proposed, and earnestly desired by the said persons, that a Publick Fund, or Stock, be raised to redress these grievances; and, more especially, for the support and maintenance of honourable Ministers, and providing for a succession of such.

Mr.

Mr. JOHN HOLLIS's *Instructions for the
Distribution of his Legacy of Eleven Hun-
dred Pounds, New South-Sea Annuities, to
the Poor of several Churches, &c.*

" Goodman's-fields, March 21, 1733.

" To the Ministers and Messengers of the
Particular Baptist Fund, which meet at
Pinner's-Hall.

" **W**HEREAS by my Will of this
date, I have given to my Son
ISAAC HOLLIS, eleven hundred pounds,
New South-Sea Annuity Stock, in trust for
such uses, as I should by writing under my
hand direct and appoint. Now I have or-
dered and appointed him, by writing under
my hand of this date, to transfer the said
eleven hundred pounds Annuity Stock, to
the Treasurer, or Treasurers, of the Parti-
cular Baptist Fund; in trust, for the Mi-
nisters and Messengers of the said Fund,
for them to dispose of as I should direct
and appoint. Now I do desire the Mini-
sters and Messengers of the aforesaid Fund,
to take a Deafeafance from the Treasurer, or

Treasurers, for the said 1100*l.* Stock, in like manner as they do for the Fund Stock.

“ Now my will is, that you dispose of the produce of this 1100*l.* New South-Sea Annuity Stock, in manner following, *viz.*

“ The produce of one thousand pounds of the said Stock, you shall distribute yearly to the Deacons of the several Churches hereafter named, in the month of February, or March: and my will is, that the said Deacons distribute the said money amongst the Poor of their Churches immediately, in the same manner as they used to do in my lifetime.

“ The remaining 100*l.* Annuity's produce, my will is, that the Secretary have twenty shillings a year for his keeping account in the Fund-book, of the receipts and payments of this my Legacy: and the remaining three pounds of the produce of the 100*l.* Annuity, I give to be spent by you in a dinner, every year.

“ My will further is, that if any of the said Churches should come to be dissolved, then their part or share in this my Legacy, shall be given to the Deacons of the other
remaining

remaining Churches, for them to distribute to their poor. And if the Dividend of the Annuity should be lessened, then the Legacies to the several Churches' poor must be reduced in proportion.

" And I do desire, that this my Order and Appointment be entered in your Fund-book, to remain and abide as a standing rule for the disposal of this my Legacy."

N. B. The Deacons of each Church, when they received this money in Mr. HOLLIS's lifetime, gave a receipt for the same, to be distributed to the Poor of the several Churches, over and above the usual allowance made to them by these Churches.

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| per Ann. | |
| 1. To the Deacons of Mr. DEW's Church, appoint | 4/. |
| 2. To the Deacons of the late Mr. WAL-LIN's Church | 4/. |
| 3. To the Deacons of the late Mr. RUDD's, now Mr. BRATHWAIT's Church | 4/. |
| 4. To the Deacons of the late Mr. RICH-ARDSON's Church | 4/. |
| 5. To the Deacons of Mr. BRINE's Church | 4/. |
| 6. To the Deacons of Mr. GIFFORD's Church | 4/. |
| | To |

7. To the Deacons of Mr. ARNOLD's Church	4/.
8. To the Deacons of Mr. REES's Church	4/.
9. To the Deacons of Mr. GILL's Church	4/.
10. To the Deacons of Mr. WILSON's Church	- - - 4/.
To the Secretary	- - - 1/.
To the Ministers and Messengers of the Fund, for a Dinner	- - - 3/.

Witness my hand the day and year
above written,

JOHN HOLLIS."

N. B. THOMAS LEEWELYN, LL. D. (who died August 7th, 1783) bequeathed, in his last Will and Testament, a Legacy to this Fund, in the following words: "To the Treasurers, for the time being, of the Particular Baptist Fund, I give one hundred pounds 4/ per Cent. Bank Annuities, to be added to the Unalienable Stock of the said Fund; the interest of which to be applied, together with Mr. HOLLIS's Donation, to defray the expence of the Fundees' annual Dinner."

RULES

RULES AND ORDERS, &c.

I. **T**HAT this Fund shall be for the use and advantage of those Churches only, that go under the denomination of PARTICULAR BAPTISTS.

N. B. By PARTICULAR BAPTISTS are intended, those that have been solemnly immersed in water, upon a personal confession of faith; and who profess the Doctrines of—Three Divine Persons in the Godhead—Eternal and Personal Election—Original Sin—Particular Redemption—Efficacious Grace in Regeneration and Sanctification—Free Justification, by the Imputed Righteousness of Christ—and the Final Perseverance of the Saints—according to *the Confession of Faith* that was published in London, by the Calvinistic Baptists, in the year 1689.

II. That the Managers of this Fund, are the Elders and Messengers of the following Particular Baptist Churches, in, or near, London; viz.

1. Carter-Lane, Southwark, JOHN RIP-
PON, Pastor.
2. Cripplegate, JOHN REYNOLDS, Pastor.
3. Dean-Street, Southwark, WILLIAM-
BUTTON, Pastor.
4. Devon-

4. Devonshire-Square, TIMOTHY THOMAS, Pastor.
5. Goodman's-Fields, ABRAHAM BOOTH, Pastor.
6. Grafton-Street, JOHN MARTIN, Pastor.
7. Maze-Pond, JAMES DORE, Pastor.
8. Unicorn-Yard, DAN. WILLIAMS, Pastor.
9. Wild-Street, Dr. S. STENNETT, Pastor.

III. That such of these Churches as have made a present to the Capital of this Fund, of the sum of 50*l.* have a right to send their Elder and one Messenger to concur in transacting the business of it; such as have made a present of 100*l.* may send their Elder and two Messengers; and such as have made a present of 150*l.* may send their Elder and three Messengers: but no Church to send more than three Messengers.

IV. That these Messengers, being annually appointed by their respective Churches, meet and dine together on the first Tuesday in March every year, and choose the following officers, viz. Three Treasurers, three Trustees, two Auditors, a Key-keeper, and a Secretary; all by ballot, if any Manager should require it.

V. Any

V. Any other Church of the same Denomination, in, or near London, may, on the approbation of the Managers, be admitted to send their Elder and a Messenger, or Messengers, to concur in transacting the business of this Fund, on the same terms with the Churches above-mentioned.

VI. The Managers may also associate with themselves any particular persons, who make a present of no less than 50*l.* to be added to the Capital.

VII. The Treasurers shall give proper securities to the Trustees for all monies, either in their hands, or in their names, in the Publick Stocks; that such money may be given up or applied as the Managers shall direct: and they shall also submit their Accounts to the examination of the Auditors, whose approbation shall be their full discharge.

VIII. That, besides the meeting in March, the Managers shall have other meetings by adjournment, as business may require: any seven of which Managers (one of them being a Pastor) shall make a Quorum; provided such seven belong to
any

any three of the forementioned Churches; and every meeting to begin with prayer.

IX. If any of the Messengers already chosen should be incapable of attending these meetings, at the times appointed; and the Church of which he is a member think proper to choose another in his room, during his indisposition or absence; that the person so chosen shall be admitted to act with them as a Messenger of that Church.

X. That a Manager from each of the said Churches bring to this Fund in the course of the year, a Collection publicly made in the Church to which he belongs, to be added to the annual distribution: all which Collections, and any other monies intended for this Fund, that shall come into the hands of any member of it, shall be reported and brought in the first opportunity.

XI. That the Distributions of this Fund shall be annual, and made, for the relief of Ministers and Churches of the Particular Baptist Denomination in England and Wales—the Education of young persons of the same persuasion for the Ministry—Do-
nations

nations of Books to young Students or Ministers—and for any other Charitable Purpose which the Managers shall approve.

XII. That no allowance be made to any Case without a Written Application properly signed: and in every New Case, that application shall contain an account of the Faith and Circumstances of the church, or person, applying; which account shall be attested by two neighbouring Ministers, or other persons of reputation in the churches.

XIII. That every Church, thus applying, make a Publick Annual Collection for the use of this Fund; and either send it up, or an account of its amount in each Letter of application for assistance.

XIV. That the Distributions of this Fund shall be reduced to certain Classes, at the discretion of the Managers: and that, in these Classes, no Congregation, which is not a regular Church, or that has not a stated Minister and weekly preaching, shall be considered: and that no Minister be considered, who shall receive annually from his people, above 40*l*. except in Extraordinary cases.

XV. That

XV. That no young persons be admitted as Students on this Fund but such as are baptized on a profession of their faith—are members of Particular Baptist Churches—have exercised their gifts, and been approved by those Churches to which they belong—have submitted themselves to the examination of this Society, or to such methods of trial as shall be thought proper to ascertain their abilities—and who are willing to be directed by the Fund, while partaking of its exhibitions.

XVI. That the Secretary shall take down the Minutes of each meeting; and, when confirmed, transcribe them fair into a book, and receive for his trouble the annual salary of eight guineas.

XVII. That such part of the Capital of this Fund, as is at the discretion of the Managers, shall not be diminished, or any of it sold out, without each Manager being first summoned, and not less than two thirds of the Elders and Messengers then present consenting to it.

XVIII. That no matters debated in this Society shall be reported abroad.

XIX. That

XIX. That these Regulations be publicly read at the meeting in March, and always lie on the table to be consulted as occasion requires.

N. B. The far greater part of the Capital of this Fund is unalienable; and the Interest only at the discretion of the Managers. A very small part is under the direction of the Managers, both Principal and Interest: and another part of it is appropriated to the Education of Students, and for Books. Any person, therefore, whose pleasure it is to encourage this extensive and excellent design, by Legacy, may adopt either one or another of the following Forms of Bequest.

Form of a Bequest to the Capital in general.

I give to the Treasurer, or Treasurers, for the time being, of the Particular Baptist Fund in London, the Managers of which now meet, or lately did meet, at Mr. Reynolds's Meeting-house, near Cripplegate, the sum of _____ sterling, to be paid by my Executors within _____ months next after my decease; to be added to that part of the Capital of the said Fund, of which only the Interest is applied as the Managers of the said Fund, or the major part of them, are pleased to direct.

Form

Form of a Bequest at the Discretion of the Managers.

I give to the Treasurer, or Treasurers, for the time being, of the Particular Baptist Fund, the Managers of which now meet, or lately did meet, at Mr. Reynolds's Meeting-house, near Cripplegate, the sum of

sterling, to be paid by my Executors within months next after my decease; to be added to that part of the Capital of the said Fund, the Principal, as well as the Interest, of which is applied as the Managers, or the major part of them, are pleased to direct.

Form of a Bequest for the Education of Students.

I give to the Treasurer, or Treasurers, for the time being, of the Particular Baptist Fund in London, the Managers of which now meet, or lately did meet, at Mr. Reynolds's Meeting-house, near Cripplegate, the sum of

sterling, to be paid by my Executors within months next after my decease; to be added to that part of the Capital of the said Fund, the Interest of which is applied by the Managers of the said Fund, or the major part of them, for the benefit of such persons as they approve, and who devote themselves to, or are engaged in, the Ministry of the Gospel; by supporting them, giving them Books, or otherwise promoting their improvement in knowledge, as to such Managers appears agreeable.

F I N I S.

